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much more at hand than he supposes, and never can be removed by his distant remedies of imperial concern and political speculation :—They lie in the excessive price of land and low price of labour, in the want of a just sympathy between the rich and poor: in the extravagance of the former which occasions exactions on the latter, and which naturally engenders in them discontent and vexations, in the gross contempt of religion and piety avowed by the higher and descending to the lower orders; in the precarious tenure of the soil by those who have some little property, and in the utter want of all property on the part of the great mass of the people. I might go on with an enumeration of many others, all beyond the jurisdiction of an imperial or any other parliament; whose omnipotence I suppose does not yet extend to the controul and government of the human mind. It would indeed be a glorious task in men of power to set about the correction of these gross abuses, by framing plans of industry and education for the poor, and setting examples to the rich of moderation and indulgence;—and it is the duty of the British cabinet (who unfortunately take much too large a share in our government) not to encrease those evils by fowing so very liberally among us the seeds of corruption and disunion. Would they but observe this negative virtue, our island would improve fast in manners and virtue.

I should now congratulate my country upon a declaration made in this speech, but that it appears to convey something of a more dangerous nature than it disavows. Mr. Pitt says, that “to any act of force he should never agree”—I hope and believe not—But when I couple this part of his speech with his conduct upon the wise and constitutional motion of Mr. Sheridan, it is too plain that he designs to resort to every thing, but force, for accomplishing his purpose. Already part of the system has been displayed in the removal of some of the oldest and most faithful servants of the crown in Ireland, and in the determined purpose avowed by the minister of never yielding it up during his life: These measures have been fortunate for this parliament and nation—they call loudly upon both to make the subject a *constant and never failing* test of the attachment or indifference of Irishmen to the independence of their native country. It is by such solemn expressions of the public will in the House of Commons, and by the several counties in their elective capacities, that the daring insolence of this minister can be alone restrained, and prevented from setting both kingdoms in a flame; or what other end can be expected from the uncontrouled designs of a man who has the confidence to assert, as he does, that “the whole of it’s (Ireland’s) commercial prosperity depends entirely on the discretion of the legislature of Great Britain, and not on the legislature of Ireland?” What! does he mean that the British parliament can, if they think proper, deprive us of our free trade, or bind us by laws made without the consent of our own Parliament? And does he think that Irishmen will ever resume these badges of

Slavery? Sooner I am convinced would the nation die as one man. Great Britain can certainly regulate her own trade.—She can take off bounties from our manufactures and deny them her market. But has Ireland nothing of this kind in her power?—Let the Minister ask Yorkshire what quantity of woollen goods she annually imports into this country. Let him make similar enquiries from every branch of manufacture in England; and he will soon be convinced how unwise would be the policy of driving a nation, by harsh and exclusive measures, into a system of PROTECTING DUTIES. A brave nation must not be bullied any more than a brave man. The love of peace, and the principle of honor, go hand in hand with both; they will decline nothing proper to maintain the former; they are ready to die in support of the latter.

HAMPDEN.

P. S. Two or three arguments of this speech, viz. the competency of Parliament to make the change; and the Union being the best means of preventing jacobin principles, and French invasion, I have left untouched, these having been fully and ably refuted in several former papers of the Anti-Union, by other hands.

ACCOUNT

OF THE

DINNER at the STRUGGLERS in COOK-STREET.

SIR B—— R——, IN THE CHAIR.

AT six the company assembled numerously—not one of the glorious 104 was absent. The Gentleman who provided the entertainment would take no excuse; some noble Lords and reverend Prelates, were invited as guests. The table was covered with all the delicacies of the season; no expence had been spared, and whoever liked good things, must have been highly gratified. Just as they were about to sit down, a gentleman from Wodl—n entered the room, which occasioned a debate. He confessed he had come in mistake, for that he had set out for the dinner of the 111 at Daly’s, but that the coachman had enquired the way from Mr. A—d—ll, who directed him to the Strugglers; but that he was not sorry for the accident, and hoped he was welcome. This produced some grumbling; however matters were compromised by his being permitted to dine at a side table, at which he sat down to a fine green goofe. Sir B. R—— was kept very busy by the great

demand for calve's head ; every one asked for the brains, tho' he assured them he had none, and referred them to the Knight of K—, who seemed, as Sir B—said, to have something like them at the other end of the table. But this only increased the confusion, for the Knight's dish was only whipped syllabub, to which he helped the company very plentifully. The guests seemed in general highly pleased, and sufficiently hungry, except the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Prime Sergeant, who kept their stomachs for the *removes*. Mr. Al—x—r was very busy at the *bubble and squeak*, and Sir J. Bl—q—e was very liberal of a boar's head. It being Lent, the Bishop of M— was observed to do much justice to a fine dish of fish. He seemed to prefer the *plaices* to the *soals*. Colonel C—te dined with great simplicity upon a broiled drum-stick ; he had a napkin tucked under his chin to save his new regimentals, notwithstanding which we could perceive a few flobbers and *many stains*. Captain P— carved some ordnance pork, and assured the company he always saved his own bacon. When the second course was taken away, a prodigious fine goose pie was placed in the middle of the table, which they all fell upon at once, and demolished in a moment. The Att—y G—l then with his usual facetiousness said, come boys we will now get our *desert*, and laughed heartily—but the joke was relished by no one but himself : Every one else looked grave and objected to personal wit—upon which Sir H—y C—n—h spoke to order, and remonstrated upon the indecorum of his learned friend. It was observed that two gentlemen from the treasury, and some others, seemed to have very little appetite and to preserve a grave silence : They seemed to dine there because they could not dine any where else. When the cloth was removed, the B—p of M— was called on to say grace, but his Lordship had hobnobbed a good deal, and in mistake repeated the *De profundis*, upon which Sir B. R. was observed to cross himself very devoutly. While the wine was putting on the table Colonel C—'s band was called in, and performed all the airs in the *Deserter*.

Sir B. R. then gave several bumper toasts ; the first of which was,

May the sister countries become one, and be ever after connected like two brothers.

General C—d—c gave

The A—t—y G—l and trial by court martial ; upon which Mr. Att—y G—l rose and paid a happy

compliment to his brave and learned friend, in which he said that the country could never fall while men of such spirit and honor administered the justice of it.

The P—e S—j—t gave *Lord C—gh, and the act for securing the freedom and independence of the House of Commons*—with three times three.

The C—q—r of the E—q—r then gave *Sir John Parnell and our absent friends*.—This sally of wit produced universal merriment, upon which the S—l—r G—n—l observed gravely, that it would be carrying the joke too far to drink the toast, and begged leave to substitute

I—c C—r—y and a reform in parliament.

Colonel C—te's health was drank, and may he serve his King as well as he has served his country.

Lord D—gh—e and Lord L—g—le rose at the same instant to give the *D'Oyer Hundred of Cork* : A violent altercation arose which should have that honor, when upon being referred to the chair, Sir B— determined that each should give fifty of the hundred ; upon which Mr. V—de—r rose and said—Mr. Chairman, as I never interfere except in matters of calculation, I humbly submit the hundred should be drank in ten times ten, instead of three times three : this was instantly agreed to, and many compliments paid to Mr. V.'s financial talents.

Several excellent songs contributed to the festivity of the evening.

Colonel C—te gave in a new stile—

A Soldier I am for the Ladies.

Mr. T—h, who, after dinner was promoted from the side-table, sang, with variations—

*How happy could I be with either,
Were t'other dear charmer away.*

Lord Ty—l—y and Major Bo—t—t sung the favorite duet of—

Say, bonny lass, could you live in a barrack ?

The Major's voice is a good second, but his Lordship's a *cracked falsetto*.

Sir John Bl—q—e gave with much *feeling*,
Money is your friend—Is it not ?

Mr. M—t—n who was dressed in Cunnemara stockings as usual, insisted upon singing "God save the King," but tho' he had got the words accurately by rote, he could not get out of the tune of *Erin go bragh*.

The company broke up at once, with the greatest decorum, (Major Sirr and Inspector Shee being in waiting) when Mr. M—rfd—n arrived from the Castle, and paid the bill.